IMT Nuremberg Archives

H - 3795

International Court of Justice

H3795 - 0002

Extract from pp. 15,16,17 of Testimony of Joachim von Ribbentrop, taken at Nuremberg, Germany, on 29 August, 1945, 1400 to 1630, by Colonel Howard A. Brundage, IGD. Also present: T/5 Adolf I. Mayer, Interpreter, and S/Sgt. Horace M. Levy, Court Reporter.

Now, when England, of course, the moment England stood behind the Poles, this problem, these problems became very difficult. It was first the visit of General Ironsides, who was in Poland, which made the Poles already to take a rather stiff position. Then it was the visit of Mr. Beck in London, where there had been guarantee talks about Poland, which also made the Poles still stiffer, 'till to that moment when the official guarantee was signed, the official British guarantee was signed for the Poles. Now, just as far as Anglo-German-British was concerned, we have finished with that. I just wanted to say that the question for the Fuehrer was then, to my way of seeing it, should he renounce the solution of this vital question because England might decide to set her theory of equality of power now in function and go make war against Germany, for a solution which very probably Englishmen themselves had considered as absolutely necessary and which became ever more urgent. You perhaps remember that the Fuehrer then had already decided that he would go on when the English guarantee signature came. When I heard about this British guarantee signature, I went at once to the Fuehrer -- I heard through the press it was signed in London -- I went at once to the Fuehrer, and hearing that military steps had been taken against Poland, I asked him to withdraw it and stop the advance. The Fuehrer was at once agreed to do it. He gave orders to his military adjutant, who was Schmund -- he died as a result of the 20th of July -- he gave orders at once to the military people to stop the advance into Poland.

Q When was that?

A This was -- well, on the 25th of August -- just a moment -- I think it was the 25th of August, 1939 -- and then negotiations with Mr. Henderson in Berlin started, about which I would like to tell you in detail afterwards; and only after this last try with Great Britain did not come off, the Fuehrer made again an offer of friendship and of close collaboration with Great Britain. When this didn't come off, the Fuehrer decided to treat directly with the Poles, and that is the way. And then when the Polish intermediary didn't come, the Fuehrer acted and took military steps.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kenneth H.M. Duke, Major R.A., hereby certify that the above is a true extract from pp. 15,16,17 of the Testimony of Joachim von Ribbentrop taken at Nuremberg, Germany, on 29 August 1945, 1400 to 1630, by Colonel Howard A. Brundage, IGD. Also present: T/5 Adolf I. Mayer, Interpreter, and S/Sgt. Horace M. Levy, Court Reporter.

Kenneth H.M. Duke.

Kenneth H.M. Duke,
Major, R.A.

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NUREMBERG, GERMANY
Exhibit
Filed

B 039836

H-3795

BB-276.

TC 91

G. B. EXHIBIT 276

B 039835

H3795 - 0003

T.C. 91 G. B. EXHIBIT

H3795 – 0004

1 page